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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01640 060651Z

21
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /062 W
---------- 033557
R 051529Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3361
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWIAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1640

BEIRUT ALSO FOR BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF
SUBJ: KHADDAM'S MISSION TO GULF STATES

1. FONMIN KHADDAM HAS IN PAST FEW DAYS PRESENTED PERSONAL LETTERS FROM ASAD TO RULERS OF KUWAIT, BAHRAIN, QATAR AND ABU DHABI. WHILE DAMASCUS MEDIA HAS BEEN SILENT ON THE PRECISE PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION, WE ASSUME BASED ON OUR DIPLOMATIC AND FONMINISTRY CONTACTS, THAT HIS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE WAS TO COUNTER IRAQ'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN THE SYRO-IRAQI DISPUTE OVER DIVISION OF EUPHRATES WATERS.

2. MEANWHILE, THE FIRST ROUND OF SAUDI MEDIATION REPORTEDLY ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH SYRIAN EUPHRATES DAM MINISTER KAHALEH AND IRAQ I RRIGATION MINISTER TALABANI
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RETURNING FROM RIYADH TO THEIR CAPITALS TO REPORT ON THEIR

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PROGRESS. SAUDI MINISTER OF PETROLEUM YAMANI RETURNED
TO DAMASCUS MAY 4 FOR FURTHER CONTACTS.

3. SYRIAN SPOKESMEN, DISCOMFITED OVER THE
WIDE-RANGEING IRAQI DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE, HAS RESPONDED SHRILLY
IN RECENT ATTACKS ON IRAQ. WE ASSUME THAT KHADDAM IN HURRIEDLY
ARRANGING TO VISIT THE GULF STATES, LEAVING BEHIND HIM
IN DAMASCUS BOTH ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD AND SWEDISH MINSTATE
CARL LIDBOM MAY HAVE SOUGHT EXPLOIT UNEASY GULF
RELATIONS WITH BAGHDAD. WE SUSPECT HE MAY HAVE GIVEN
ASSURANCES TO VARIOUS RULERS THAT NOT ONLY HAS NO DEAL YET
BEEN STRUCK BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD BUT ALSO THAT
ANY DEAL WHICH IS ACHIEVED WILL IN NO WAY DISADVANTAGE
THE GULF STATES'.

4. DAMASCUS 1582, BEING REPEATED TO KUWAIT, MANAMA, DOHA
AND ABU DHABI GIVES FLAVOR OF CURRENT TOP LEVEL
SYRIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS SETTLEMENT WITH IRAQIS.
MURPHY

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NNN

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